

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell, December 17, 1879

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to his Parents. (Evidently in the handwriting of AGB.'s secretary). 904 — 14th Street, Washington, D. C., December 17, 1879. My dear Father and Mother:

Your notes of the 9th inst., received. I am so busy completing my article on Binaural Audition for the January number of the "Journal of Otology" and in completing our arrangements about the house and laboratory that I have not been able to write myself.

The thermo-pile arrived safely this morning. What is the history of it? Is it a present from George Minchin or is it my thermo-pile that I sent to be repaired and left behind me in England?

The first part of my article on Binaural Audition is now in the printer's hands and I have instructed him to send one proof to you and one to me.

I derived so much benefit from your criticism of my paper on "Vowel Theories" that I want your assistance in revising this article before it goes to press. Please correct the proofs and make any changes in the language you think advisable in the proof sent you and forward to me here. If I adopt the changes I can then incorporate them in my own proof which will be sent to the printer.

I wrote to Fluker by this mail, telling him that Mary Horne would like him to accept the new tenant and release the 2 executors of the late Mr. Le. Miere. Mary Horne is now installed

Library of Congress

at my laboratory and I think will be very comfortable there. I am there all day and Mr. Tainter is there at night.

Send us a photograph of Mamma. I suppose you have received them from Notman. We ordered them to be sent to Brantford and have none ourselves.

Alec. Prof. A. Melville Bell, Brantford, Ont. P. S. If you have not yet invested the two thousand (\$2000) dollars left with you, intended to form a nucleus of a "Visible Speech" fund, please forward at once to Salem a check for two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars payable to the order of James P. Burbank. Burbank will deposit it in my name in a Salem Bank and send me a check back for it, so that I can pay him more conveniently for printing "Visible Speech" by a check on the Salem account. I intend to keep the Salem Bank as a sort of penny box for Visible Speech. I will deposit what money I can spare from time to time for Visible Speech in the Salem Bank and draw it out as occasion requires for investment or for payment of expenses connected with printing. I am very much pleased with first proofs forwarded by Burbank. A copy of our publication will be sent to you every week. AGB.